What is claimed is:

1. A process for manufacturing a contact lens with indicia and for reducing cracks and splits in the contact lens in and proximate the indicia comprising:

electrochemically removing metal from a metal mold tool to form anisotropic indicia in the metal mold tool that correspond to indicia for the contact lens;

casting a mold with the mold tool to provide a negative mold having the anisotropic indicia of the metal mold tool; and

filling the mold with a contact lens material and curing the contact lens material to form the contact lens with anisotropic indicia.

2. The process of claim 1 comprising the further steps of:

masking the mold tool with a resist material that has one or more openings corresponding to the shape of said indicia for the contact lens;

exposing the openings to a nitrate or halide solution; and

applying a DC voltage to the solution in order to anisotropically etch the metal in the openings.

3. The process of claim 2 wherein the DC voltage is about 3 volts.

4. The process of claim 2 wherein the solution is sodium chloride having a concentration of about 120 to 130 grams per liter.

5. The process of claim 2 wherein the mask material is photoresist and the indicia are exposed to light passing through transparent portions of an opaque mask.

6. The process of claim 2 wherein the indicia are formed by maskless exposure to a beam of radiation.

7. A contact lens made by the process of claim 1.

8. The process of claim wherein the indicia in the metal mold tool have walls and a floor and wherein the walls are smooth and the floor is rough.

9. A process for manufacturing a contact lens with indicia and for reducing cracks and splits in lens material in and proximate the indicia comprising:

anisotropically removing metal from a metal mold tool to form indicia in the metal mold tool that correspond to indicia for a contact lens;

casting a mold in the mold tool to provide a negative mold having the relatively smooth indicia of the metal mold tool; and

filling the mold with a contact lens material and curing the contact lens material to form a contact lens with indicia having relatively smooth surfaces.

10. The process of claim 9 wherein the indicia have sidewalls that are spaced apart substantially the same distance at the top and bottom of the indicia.

11. A contact lens comprising a body of contact lens material with anterior and posterior surfaces and indicia extending from a surface of the contact lens into the body of the lens to define sidewalls and a floor disposed at the end of the sidewalls and below the surface wherein said sidewalls that are spaced apart substantially the same distance at the surface and at the floor of the indicia.

12. The contact lens of claim 11 wherein the sidewalls taper at less than about 10 degrees.

13. The contact lens of claim 12 wherein the taper is positive or negative.

14. The contact lens of claim 13 wherein the sidewalls are smoother than the floor.